

Perot says Americans will lose jobs to NAFTA

By Steve Smith
Senior Reporter

OMAHA — Texas billionaire Ross Perot blasted the North American Free Trade Agreement Sunday, saying NAFTA "is a bullet that needs to be dodged."

Perot, who addressed a crowd of about 2,000 people at the Orpheum Theatre, stood in front of a banner that read "No NAFTA — Save your job, save our country."

The chairman and founder for

United We Stand America — a national grassroots organization dedicated to government reform — said the proposed trade agreement would de-industrialize the United States because Americans would lose jobs to Mexican workers.

Perot said most NAFTA supporters were either foreign lobbyists or represented "the very few" special interest groups that would benefit from the trade agreement.

He asked the crowd to "forget all the theoretical perspectives" by econ-

omists and realize the consequences the trade agreement could have on American jobs.

"The people of America understand (NAFTA)," Perot said. "They realize it would de-industrialize our country if we continue these dumb trade agreements."

Comparing the NAFTA fight to a football game, Perot said "it's in the third quarter, and our side is ahead. But that doesn't necessarily mean we're going to win."

NAFTA's passage can be prevent-

ed by educating others on the proposal's specifics, the billionaire said.

"Over the next few weeks, we're going to have to be in a Joe Friday mood when it comes to NAFTA," he said.

Thanks to UWSA members and their activity, opposition against NAFTA has grown and is the majority opinion in the nation, Perot said.

Perot said the easiest way for common citizens to get their messages across was to show their might in the voting booth.

"You have something that politi-

cians do not have," he said. "You are the vote. If you wanted this country painted purple, you could get that done."

Americans have been effective in showing their displeasure with the free trade agreement, Perot said.

"NAFTA was on a rocket ride until you showed up," he said. "The good news is that you stopped it."

Perot said NAFTA had not been defeated yet, however. "On Nov. 17, we need to make sure it's D.O.A. — dead on arrival," he said.

NCAA

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the results of which indicated that men's athletics received 70 percent of all athletics scholarships and 77 percent of operating budgets.

The reason for the disparity lies largely in the amount of football scholarships. It would take seven women's sports to match the number of scholarships — 88 — offered in football.

Movements toward equity have led to the NCAA's recent cuts in football scholarships, according to Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne. Since 1986, the number of scholarships has decreased from 105 to 88. Next year, the number will be reduced to 85.

Both Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne and Osborne said they would prefer to have gender equity without eliminating opportunities for

men.

Women's athletic director Barb Hibner agreed.

"I don't want to achieve gender equity by suppressing opportunities for men," Hibner said. "We shouldn't be looking at this as an issue of 'he' and 'she' but as 'we.'"

Women's basketball coach Angela Beck said more had to be done to reach that perspective.

While women make up 39 percent of scholarship athletes, women's sports receive approximately one-fifth of the athletic department's funding, Beck said.

"I would never say we are treated equal because I'm not stupid enough to say that we are equal," Beck said. "But we are treated better than most other programs and are on equal grounds in academic services."

"We need more women administrators, and we need more women in power if we hope to achieve equity."

But, Beck agreed, women's sports can't achieve equity without funding from football and men's basketball.

According to the athletic department's business and finance office, football generates \$13.3 million for the athletic department with men's basketball accounting for \$4.3 million. Those two sports pay for most of the athletic department budget, Papik said, with fund raising paying for the rest.

"In principle, people say finances shouldn't enter into it," he said. "In reality, they can't be ignored."

"We must remember that the athletic department pays for its own bills."

Nebraska will have to pay for those

through increased fund raising, said Chris Petersen, Nebraska's associate athletic director in charge of external operations.

That will also have to help pay for the addition of women's soccer next year, said Al Papik, Nebraska's senior associate athletic director.

Trying to achieve gender equity wasn't the only reason Nebraska "made the women's soccer team a varsity sport," Papik said, "but it did enter into making the decision."

"We want to comply by adding a sport, not cutting a men's sport."

Editor's note: This is the first in a weeklong series of stories that will explore how Nebraska athletics has been — and will be — affected by the NCAA's implementation of gender equity. Tomorrow: How gender equity will affect football.

Equity

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male faculty member in the College of Business Administration passed out a mock tax form.

"The document contained hurtful, derogatory references to women and various minorities," she said.

Although the mock form offended many women faculty, Price-Decker said, male members at a CBA faculty meeting said they had a right to distribute "offensive" material in the workplace and that anyone who objected to the form was probably a member of the "thought police."

Price-Decker said these hostile reactions threatened to undermine the progress UNL has made in the recruitment of women and minorities.

"We have heard many new women and faculty remark that coming to Nebraska has been like stepping back into the 1950s, and many have pondered openly whether they have made a mistake in coming here," Price-Decker said.

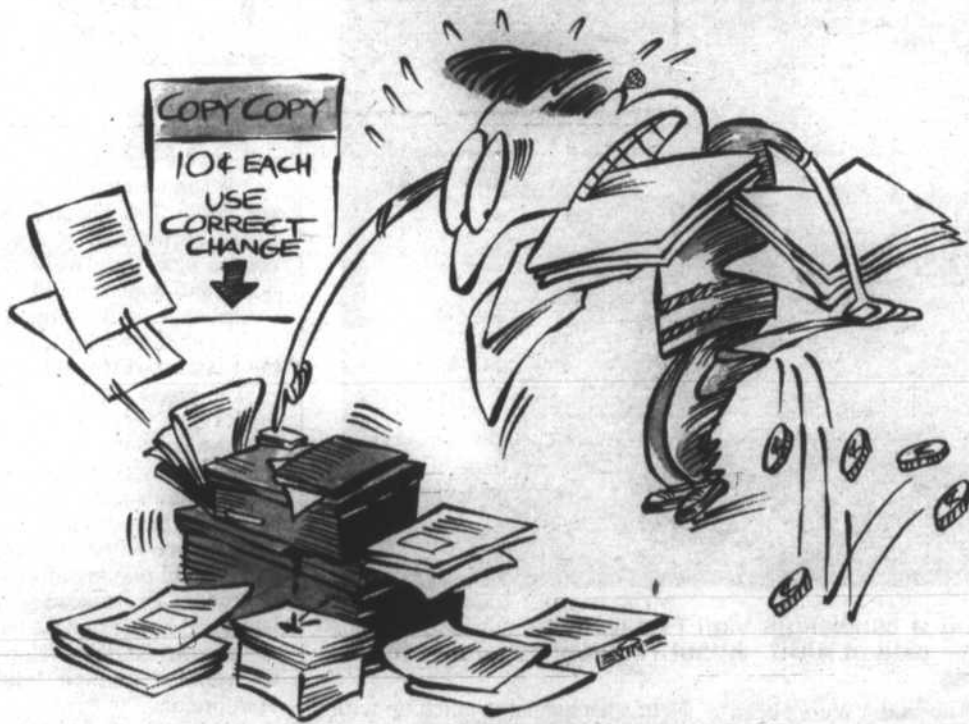
Efforts to provide an equitable environment have not reached all administrative levels, she said, and many women are afraid to speak out because of the risk to their careers.

"As long as women are so intimidated that their willingness to speak out is chilled, the need for a warmer climate persists," she said.

To improve the climate on campus, Price-Decker suggested the following to the board:

- Identify and eliminate salary inequities that may exist.
- Include in the evaluations of deans some consideration of their commitment to gender equity.
- Educate the university community about the proper role of the Affirmative Action Office.
- Empower the Affirmative Action Office to resolve adequately resolve gender equity problems.

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Hemp

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Splichal said band members changed their minds.

Splichal estimated that Saturday's rally brought ten new members to NORML/Hemp. But he said most new members did not stay active for very long.

"People come looking to party and looking for free marijuana, and as a NORML chapter we can't even encourage that," Splichal said. "So we have to figure out other ways to humor them."

Chris Preston, a freshman general studies major, said he came to the rally because he'd been meaning to get involved with NORML/Hemp.

Other UNL students, including Loren Rye, said they came mostly for the concert. Rye, a sophomore English major, said he sympathized with the legalization movement, even though he said he was against the recreational use of marijuana.

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